

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A erosion control blanket comprising:
a top sheet of a netting material;
a bottom sheet of a netting material;
a synthetic filler material being disposed between said top sheet and
said bottom sheet; and
wherein said synthetic filler material further comprises a plurality of
crimped polymer fibers which are arranged to form a three-dimensional matrix.

2. The erosion control blanket of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filler material
is a polyester.

3. The erosion control blanket of claim 2, wherein said polyester is polyethylene
terephthalate (PET).

4. The erosion control blanket of claim 2, wherein said polyester is substantially
post-consumer, recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

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5. The erosion control blanket of claim 4, wherein said recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is substantially of green soda bottle material.

6. The erosion control blanket of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filler material has a resistance to compression value of about 0.210 to about 0.285 psi/gram of fiber.

7. The erosion control blanket of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filler material has a percent recovery value of at least 90% following the application of a 0.5 psi compressive load for a period of 5.0 minutes.

8. The erosion control blanket of claim 1, wherein said crimped polymer fibers have about 1.0 to about 3.0 crimps per inch.

9. The erosion control blanket of claim 1, wherein said crimped polymer fibers contain additives to increase resistance to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

10. A method of making an erosion control blanket, said method comprising the steps of:

providing post-consumer polymer material;

cleaning said post consumer polymer material;
forming the cleaned post-consumer polymer material into polymer fibers;
crimping the polymer fibers at intervals along their length to form crimped polymer fibers;
cutting the crimped polymer fibers to form a loose fiber filler;
providing top and bottom sheet netting adapted for receiving said loose fiber filler therebetween; and
securing the loose fiber filler between said top and bottom sheet netting to form said erosion control blanket.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said post-consumer polymer material is a polyester.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said polyethylene terephthalate is substantially of green soda bottle material.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the crimping step is carried out using a stuffer-box crimper.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the fibers are crimped with about 1.0 to about 3.0 crimps per inch.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the fibers are cut at a length of about 5.75 inches to about 6.25 inches.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of forming the cleaned post-consumer polymer material into polymer fibers further comprises the steps of:

pelletizing said cleaned post-consumer polymer material to form polymer pellets;

extruding said polymer pellets as a polymer melt; and

melt spinning said polymer melt to form polymer fibers.

18. An erosion control blanket constructed according to the method of claim 10.